

MARKED VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the following claim as indicated.

31. (Thrice Amended) An absorbent article at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor, wherein the protease inhibitor comprises from about 0.001% to about 30% by weight of the article; the protease inhibitor has an IC_{50} of about 500 μ m or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method; [the protease inhibitor has an IC_{50} of about 500 μ m or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method;] and the protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonylfluoride hydrochloride, hexamidine and its salts, pentamidine and its salts, and mixtures thereof.